

Mr. Rakkou was born on April 17, 1938 in the small town of Korisos in the prefecture of Kastoria, Greece. He received his first college degree in forestry in 1959 and later honored his country by serving in the Royal Army of Greece until he was honorably discharged in 1961. After marrying his wife in September of 1961, the couple immigrated to the United States in 1962. In pursuit of higher education, Mr. Rakkou enrolled at The City University of New York where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics. He later completed his Masters Degree in Economics from CUNY.

After graduation, and with the addition of two children to his family, Mr. Rakkou joined the Atlantic Bank of New York, initiating thereby a long and successful career in banking. While there he stood out amongst his colleagues for his dedication, extreme work ethic, and overall performance, which subsequently contributed to his professional advancement to Executive Vice President in charge of the Commercial Lending Activities Division of the bank. Mr. Rakkou's past performance, degree of expertise, and dedication to his profession were more effectively demonstrated in 1993, when he joined, as President and C.E.O., the Interbank of New York. It was at this small community bank, where Mr. Rakkou found pleasure in serving his community by creating and providing jobs for community members and contributing to the economic improvement of the area.

Mr. Rakkou furthered his genuine love for his neighbors, by joining the Community Board of St. Spyridon Church in Washington Heights, where he was elected president for 2 consecutive years. He served for several years as a member of the School Board of the Th. Tsolainos and C. Goulondris Parochial School in New York. Mr. Rakkou was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the St. Michael's Home for the Aged in Yonkers, NY, and served as treasurer for 3 years. In addition to these and many other accomplishments, in 2002 Mr. Rakkou was honored with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award that pays tribute to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to America.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Rakkou for his tireless dedication to his community both professionally and civically, and I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring the distinguished Mr. John C. Rakkou.

HONORING DOROTHY B. BIDDLE

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Biddle is a very special lady in the hearts of the residents of Fulton County, Ohio and her hometown of Wauseon. Proud to call her friend myself, I am pleased to note an action recently taken by this gracious centenarian, a wonderful and lasting gift she gave to her community.

For many years, Wauseon has been working to establish a ballpark. The "Field of Dreams" has been a goal of the community and special project of the Wauseon Rotary. Mrs. Biddle's husband, Clark, was a Rotarian until his passing, and she has remained in touch with the group's activities. In her 105th

year, Dorothy Biddle decided to offer a bequest to the Wauseon Rotary in order to fulfill this 14 yearlong dream. Long a supporter of youth activities and opportunities, Mrs. Biddle is donating the astounding sum of \$1,254,000.00 for the completion of the park. This gift numbers among the largest ever received by any Rotary organization.

Now the park, which will feature baseball diamonds, soccer fields, and walking trails on 73 acres of land will bear the name of Wauseon's most treasured citizen, who though she has traveled around the world still considers her hometown to be "the best place in the world to live." Children of the future will see by her example what one person can do for her community when the Dorothy B. Biddle Park remains as a living testament to a truly remarkable lady. Thank you, Dorothy, for your beneficence and civic-minded patriotism.

IN SUPPORT OF SSG WILLIAM L.  
MURWIN AND H.R. 2998

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2998 offered by my friend and colleague, the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. YOUNG of Florida. This vital legislation will benefit thousands of our men and women in uniform, including one brave Nevadan in particular, Staff Sergeant William L. Murwin.

Staff Sergeant Murwin is a Marine Reservist from Nevada whose unit was activated for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, he was injured while patrolling with his unit. Sergeant Murwin suffered grave injuries, and was evacuated to the United States for treatment. He received care and treatment for a month at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC, and was then released from active duty and returned to Nevada. He was deeply shocked to receive a bill from the Federal government for more than \$200 for the food he received while being treated for his combat injuries.

Fortunately for Staff Sergeant Murwin, Mr. YOUNG and his wife Beverly visited Walter Reed and personally paid Sergeant Murwin's bill. Then, motivated by his desire to make sure this did not happen to any service member ever again, BILL YOUNG introduced H.R. 2998 to ban this practice forever. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, and urge every Member of the House to become a co-sponsor of this vital, non-partisan legislation.

On behalf of the people of Nevada, I want to thank Chairman and Mrs. Young for the service and compassion they have shown Sergeant Murwin and all of our men and women in uniform. I am proud to serve in the House with Chairman YOUNG and hope that he continues his career of public service here for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL ROBERT J. NATTER, U.S. NAVY, COMMANDER, U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND, COMMANDER, U.S. ATLANTIC FLEET

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication, public service and patriotism that personified the Naval career of Admiral Robert J. Natter, United States Navy. Admiral Natter is currently serving as the Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and he will soon retire from the Navy after more than 37 years of distinguished service wearing the uniform of our Nation.

I have had the pleasure to know the Natter family for nearly 16 years and have personally worked with the Admiral on a variety of important issues affecting the Navy and the U.S. military, so it is with great pride and admiration that I honor a dear friend as he begins the next chapter of his life.

I first met Bob in 1981 when he was a commander. I hired him as a military fellow on my staff and assigned him to work all of my legislative issues on the Armed Services Committee. I was impressed with how quickly Bob became an expert at the complicated legislative and budget processes. In hindsight, it is clear to me that the Navy afforded Commander Natter this position because they knew he was flag officer material, and this professional development opportunity would serve Bob and the Navy well. It did.

During the years following the 1991 Tailhook Convention, the Navy was struggling to repair its reputation. At this critical time Rear Admiral Natter was assigned as Chief of Legislative Affairs. His wartime and operational experience gave him instant credibility. But it was Admiral Natter's knowledge of Washington and the Hill along with his candor, confidence and demeanor that helped navigate the Navy through those rough waters and rebuild and restore the Navy's reputation.

A native of Trussville, Alabama, Admiral Natter grew up in a family of true American patriots. One of nine children, seven boys and two girls, all seven sons joined the military as six naval officers and one Air Force officer. After enlisting in the Naval Reserve, Bob Natter chose the Naval Academy as his commissioning source graduating in 1967. After a few tours at sea, he was sent to Vietnam for duty on riverboat patrols where he learned first hand the harsh realities of war. While serving as the Officer in Charge of a Naval Special Warfare detachment, Lieutenant Natter was seriously injured when his special operations team came under attack. He then earned both the Purple Heart and Silver Star for his heroic actions. His experiences in Vietnam instilled in him the true meaning of leadership, strengthened his desire to serve, and solidified his reputation as a strong leader and most capable warrior.

Throughout his career, Admiral Natter held many positions of great responsibility including command of USS *Chandler* (DDG 996), USS *Antietam* (CG 54), and Commander of the United States Seventh Fleet. In June 2000, Admiral Natter assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet where he was